



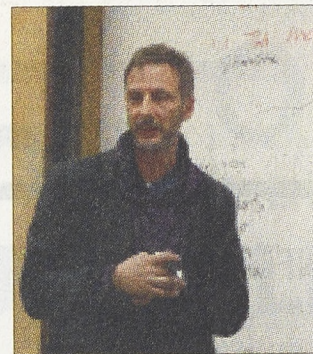
VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's



Valley College could become a smoke-free campus. Do you agree with this potential ban?



The philosophy department kicked off its lecture series with a reflection on life.



The Monarch men's basketball team ended its season after the second round of the playoffs Saturday.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

lavalleystar.com

February 29, 2012

Volume 76 Issue 2

JEOPARDIZING THE FUTURE OF VALLEY CONSTRUCTION

Valley College is forced to put \$251 million on hold, pending a state review.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Daniel LaVista has launched a full investigation before releasing the funds for on-going and future construction projects at all nine LACCD campuses. This poses a serious concern for both staying within budget and on schedule for "reVitalizing Valley College."

The state audit was triggered in response to the L.A. Times' six-part "Billions to Spend" series from early 2011 that described gross financial misconduct during the remodeling of the campuses. The audit found waste and mismanagement of bond money, use of bond money for non-bond purposes, and a lack of money to finish the projects on some campuses due to misappropriate spending. In addition, the chancellor is questioning the budgets for long-term building maintenance, which is not included in bond funds.

According to Eloy Retamal, project director at Yang Management, the construction management company at "reVitalizing Valley College," the hold affects Valley disproportionately because the initial planning process resulted in a later start than other colleges in the district. The careful planning comes at a high price: Valley has \$251 million on hold compared to \$6 million at East Los Angeles College. According to Retamal, "We're losing \$38,000 every day [as a result of construction escalation costs]."

Valley President Sue Carleo is frustrated at how the financial con-

cerns within the district are being addressed but agrees with the values of running an ethical program. "We spent 18 months on a comprehensive Master Plan. Our extensive planning is now working against us," Carleo said. "We did our homework and used expertise wisely."

Instead, the chancellor is only authorizing the release of funding for one project at a time, costing Valley precious funds as the price of doing business increases with inflation and market conditions. "We hired everybody. We're all waiting for the money," said Retamal, who is hoping for a full release of the funds. But two months into the three-month review, there is no news from the chancellor.

Funding for the \$6 billion, nine campus remodel and reconstruction project intended to modernize existing buildings and construct new sustainable buildings on campus stems from several property tax-increase measures in the LACCD. The money is earmarked for construction, purchase of property or furniture only; therefore, it cannot be used to supplement the dwindling budget to create extra courses or employ additional instructors.

A group of local residents charged with overseeing the construction and sharing information between the community and Valley — the Citizens' Building Oversight Committee — is reaching out in a letter to the chancellor expressing disagreement with the hold and is encouraging a release of funding for construction to move forward. Carleo is also participating in a meeting with the chancellor to discuss the steps needed to release the funds. "I hope that within the next couple of weeks, we'll be back on track," said Carleo. "I'm going to keep pushing for the funds to be released."



HELP ME, HELP YOU - Julia Coy, undecided major, talks to Valley College President Sue Carleo, Thursday, about the mission statement and her concerns with it at the Sidewalk Chat Carleo conducted outside the Student Services Center.

THE "SIDEWALK CHAT" HELPS ASSESS NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Students were asked to complete a survey on the college's new mission statement and give feedback.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Valley College hosted the annual "Sidewalk Chat" with President Sue Carleo Feb. 23, giving students the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with the president and take a survey on Valley's new vision, mission, and core values state-

ments.

The event was held in the quad outside the Student Services Annex and lasted from noon to 2 p.m. Chairs were assembled underneath a tent, offering protection against the harsh sunlight. The event differed from previous chats because several administrators accompanied Carleo, each diligently approaching students and asking them to take the survey or give any kind of feedback. According to Carleo, 2,000 students took the survey online and approximately 200 participated in the event.

"I think it's fantastic that [students] are willing to stop and give us feedback," said Carleo. "We want to make sure that [the survey] gives us the right guidance."

According to Annie G. Reed, associate dean of student services, colleges revise mission statements every six years. Valley's revisions are designed to fit the changes in the design and educational culture of students, faculty and staff.

"A mission statement drives everything that a college does," Reed said. "We do everything by shared governance."

Students were immediately drawn to the tent and responded well to the encouragement from administrators, who walked up to groups with enthusiasm and stressed the importance of their involvement. The majority of the one-on-one feedback went from general to positive. David Chernobylsky, a microbiology major, transferred to Valley from Pierce College and had nothing but positive feedback.

"They're doing a good job," he said. "I love this campus. The teachers are great, especially for biology and art."

[See SIDEWALK CHAT, Page 2]

BUDGET CUTS CAUSE NEW REGISTRATION RULES FOR STUDENTS

Continuing students lose priority in a registration shuffle that favors new and transferring students.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

Due to statewide budget cuts, Valley College students will soon be subjected to new, stricter enrollment policies. In addition to limitations on how many times a class may be repeated, it will likely become more difficult to register for needed classes.

Starting July 1, new measures will be enacted, moving students through the system at an accel-

erated rate while continuing to help them meet the requirements necessary to receive a degree or transfer to a four-year school. The most noticeable of these changes will be the 100-point rule. In the past, students with the most credits have received priority registration. Under the modified rules, new students will be given priority, and students with 100 or

more credits will be moved to the bottom of the list. Additionally, students that have exceeded this 100-credit threshold will no longer be eligible for financial aid.

"The message is from the state, 'Sorry, the free ride is over' — not that it was ever a free ride. But, 'the ride is more costly now, and we're going to send the costs your direction,'" said Valley President Sue Carleo.

Students enroll in community college for different reasons: some take classes to earn a degree or transfer to another school; others take classes for personal enjoyment or enrichment, without the goal of a degree. Since almost half of the 2.6 million students who attend California community colleges never complete their degree or transfer requirements, the students in the former group will now be prioritized over the latter.

Another change students will notice is the new limit on repeating a class. Where in the past, students have been able to repeat a class as many times as needed to receive a passing grade, they will now be limited to three tries to pass.

"You'll have three chances to take a class. After that, if you haven't done it ... too bad. You're done," said Carleo.

This also affects students who withdraw from classes, but since community college funding is largely based on enrollment, the new rule makes things difficult for the college too.

"Students are going to need to avoid any kind of a penalty — in other words, a 'W' on your transcript, which then counts for your three tries," said Carleo. "You will have to drop before the census date. Otherwise, you get the 'W' and we don't get paid for you, and it's like a double hit on both parties."

In order to help improve the efficiency in directing students toward meeting degree or transfer requirements, Valley has begun a project called Preparing All Students for Success, or PASS. The goal of this project is to determine how to best direct students through the community college system.

This effort is typical of Valley's staff, which remains dedicated to helping students as best it can, despite the continued limitations imposed by repeated budget cuts.

"We're doing a lot of that kind of work," said Carleo, "so that we can use every single dollar and every resource that we have more effectively toward helping students succeed."



MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

STEP UP - Speech 101 instructor Virginia Green, far right, holds her Friday class on the steps of Valley College's main entrance to teach students how to project their voices. Green has expressed to her students that she is confident that many of them will drop before the semester's end.

ASU

Club Day

The Associated Student Union is holding a club day today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

MONARCH BASEBALL



Victory

The Monarch baseball team extended its record to 5-5 Saturday after defeating the Palomar College Comets. The Monarchs square off, away, against Ventura College tomorrow at 2 p.m. For more baseball coverage see, sports page 5.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



Photos of the Week:
Laemmle NoHo 7

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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FTR CONTRACT TERMINATED

The LACCD recently broke its contract with construction management firm FTR International.

BRAD TAYLOR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees recently broke its contract with construction management firm FTR International in an attempt to save taxpayer money and create a safer campus.

"Substandard work" was cited in a recent press release by the district as the major reason behind the debarring of the Irvine-based contractors and their five-year \$48-million deal that started in 2008 to build the Allied Health and Science Complex at Valley College.

Valley President Sue Carleo was optimistic about the debarment and sees this as a step in the right direction for the campus but acknowledged there is still work to be done.

"We appreciate the Board taking a stand," she said. "This will not be an issue in the future." Carleo also said that repairs on the AHS building will take place this summer and that the school was in the process of recovering costs from FTR for its "poor workmanship."

While the Feb. 8 press release makes no mention of any specific

damages resulting from FTR's work, architects, engineers and inspectors cited 2,400 construction defects, according to a series of articles reported by the Los Angeles Times. The district refuted such reports in a March 2011 press release, calling the reports "inaccurate and 'out of date'."

"It's unfortunate that the Times did not bother to revisit the building again prior to publishing the story, as it would have found a building functioning as planned," said Carleo.

In the February press release, the decision to terminate the construction contract with FTR was made after the company was given full due process, according to district rules and procedures. An initial letter detailing the allegations was sent to the company,

along with evidence to support the allegations.

At the district's regularly scheduled meeting, trustees President Miguel Santiago said, "Today's action to fire a major Building Program contractor strikes a blow against shoddy work. This contractor's actions were inexcusable, and debarring them from further work will also send a message to every contractor on the program that we expect the best work possible for our nine campuses. We are continuing to deliver on our promises and saving money for our taxpayers."

FTR owner and Chief Executive Nizar Katbi has denied all the allegations, citing a lack of evidence to support the case. A brief was released to the hearing committee saying FTR was

in full compliance with the district's instructions, and subcontractors and faulty designs were responsible. "It's a travesty. The Los Angeles Community College District approved everything," argued FTR attorney Theresa Traber.

The multiple-day hearing was conducted before two members of the board of trustees, with both parties presenting evidence and witnesses. A three-year debarment was recommended but was upped to five years. An office of inspector general and whistleblower hotline has been implemented for LACCD's Building Program. The 14-year, \$6 billion program is funded mostly by taxpayer-approved bonds and supplemented by additional funding from the state of California.



THE CLIMB - A construction worker scales the scaffolding on one of the campus' construction projects.

EDGAR ROBLES | VALLEY STAR

SIDEWALK CHAT

Continued from page 1

Several students were just as passionate about the opportunity to be heard. Julia Coy, undecided, spoke with the president about the reality of implementing the mission statement and the lack of orientation at the college.

"Orientation is essential," said Coy. "A lot of students don't have a strong foundation. You know, a mission statement is nice, but how is it going to happen?"

Carleo's response to Coy summed up the purpose of the event: in order to implement a mission statement, administrators need to first make sure that

they are in fact reaching students and representing the campus' many changes and goals.

"Our concern is whether or not we're getting it right," said Carleo. "We want to make sure that we've got our students with us."

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JOB SHADOWING OFFERS STUDENTS
THE LOOKING-GLASS INTO CAREERS

Valley's Career/Transfer Center offers sound advice and essential opportunities with job workshops.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Career/Transfer Center at Valley College held its first Groundhog Job Shadow Day workshop of the semester last week, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in various fields and assess their academic preparation.

The workshop was offered to students at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. inside the Student Services Annex as part of the World Placement Program, sponsored by Junior Achievement. Ten students sat and listened to Clive Gordon, director of the Career Center, give practical advice on job seeking, first impressions, and finding a fitting career goal. One of the key things he stressed was the importance of being presentable and professional.

"Studies have shown that up to 80 percent of employees have an idea of whether or not you might be a good fit within the first 30 seconds," said Gordon.

Students were asked to fill out forms before the workshop began to help place them with the most suitable seminar. A few students returned from last semester, including Elisa Thrash, an accounting major who wants to find other jobs

that suit her major.

"You get to talk to someone working in the field," said Thrash. "I can see what I have to look forward to and compare the differences of fields in a realistic view."

Gordon asked the students to be as specific as possible when describing the type of position they wanted to shadow. He then asked students to introduce themselves and state that position.

Occupations ranged from mortician and heart surgeon to astrophysicist and water specialist.

Accompanying Gordon was Faviolla Soria, an intern from California Lutheran University. Soria is a counselor for the center and helps place students on and off campus. Together, they performed several "greeting skits," designed to give students tangible examples of good and bad interviews. Gordon noted a few things that are essential: a firm, brief and dry handshake; eye contact; and speaking in a confident way that shows your personality. Following each skit, the students were asked to critique each example and perform their own.

The workshop moved onto other items: questions to ask a future employer; dressing professionally and conservatively for an interview; arriving early and, when possible, visiting the job site prior to your scheduled interview.

Certain miscellaneous points were addressed toward the close of the workshop. Gordon reminded students that the chance to shadow someone in the field is not a job; therefore, they should not request an

application. He also spoke of good days to make an appointment and informed students that they should list two preferences in the event that those participating in the program could not secure the first choice. Last, students were told to collect business cards and promptly send a thank-you letter to the host.

Thursday's was the first of four scheduled orientations for the semester, while the second was held yesterday. The next orientation is Thursday, March 8 at 1 p.m. or 5 p.m. Orientations last one hour and are held in the Career/Transfer Center in the Student Services Annex. Visit the Annex to reserve a spot or call (818) 947-2646.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

DROP-OUT STUDENTS GET SHUT OUT: VALLEY'S NEW THREE-STRIKES RULE LIMITS CLASS ATTEMPTS

New rules handed down by the state to limit the number of times a student can take a course questions this generation's motivation.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a day and age where budget cuts define the California Community Colleges System, it is no surprise the state is implementing changes such as the "three-strike rule" to limit the number of times a student can take a class; it is, however, baffling that anyone would complain.

The "three-strike" rule grants students three opportunities to pass any given class offered in the community college system. Unless there is a viable excuse, explained through a petition that the student must fill out, the student is forced to take the desired course in a different district after the third attempt.

"The message from the state of California is clear: state support for education is a scarce commodity and students need to use it wisely," Valley College President Sue Carleo said.

Unfortunately, students these days cannot be described by the term "wise." Instead, this generation is best labeled by billion-dollar-fast food chains like

McDonald's, an overweight, lazy and excuse-driven generation that wants everything its way, all the time, no matter what the cost or penalty.

The state is in dire straits, classes are limited and overflow from nearby universities makes it difficult to get classes and finish on time. This, more than ever, puts pressure on students to be responsible when enrolling in classes.

"If you are going to take a class, you should be serious

about it," Valley student and biology major Jehiry Deharo said. "Maybe the first time you had family issues, but the second time you should be prepared ... you shouldn't have to take it four times."

According to an October article in the L.A. Times, during a five-year period, early dropouts from the California Community Colleges

System cost the state nearly \$480 million, which is far more than any other state. The California Community Colleges

System, which is the largest higher education system in the country, comprises 112 schools and 2.6 million students.

Simply put, if students who drop out from the system are costing the state nearly half a billion dollars, consider the strain and cost on the state for those who linger indefinitely.

"I think that's unfair because people go through circumstances that prevent them from passing," said Valley student and psychology major Tenisha Young, who is taking a math course out of the Los Angeles Community College District because she took it three times. "Maybe it has something to do with the teachers. I know a lot of classes I have taken [where]

the teachers talk too fast and don't care. I don't think I should be punished for not understanding math ... they need to fire the math teachers and get new teachers."

It is understood that unforeseeable circumstances come up, but so do they in the real world and life in general. Every meal isn't "happy," you can't always "have it your way" and there are consequences for actions.

There is no clause stating that a student who takes a class three times is a bad student or incompetent, but there are repercussions. So, either complete the course in another district, or find a career that doesn't require a degree. Either way, the free meals are all used up.

“... during a five-year period, early dropouts from the California Community Colleges System cost the state nearly \$480 million ...”

SHOULD VALLEY'S PROPOSED BAN GO UP IN SMOKE?

Valley College considers a bold move into the 21st century with a blanket ban on campus smoking.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College should ban all smoking within the campus perimeter to protect the health of its students and faculty, as well as set an example as a green campus that is aware of the environmental impact caused by discarded cigarette butts.

It is no secret that smoking is dangerous to your health and a highly addictive habit that attracts many users at a young age. The danger of inhaling the toxins applies both to smokers and those in the immediate area, but young people are especially susceptible to the addictive effects of nicotine. According to a 2010 survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, more than 80 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 18.

But smoking doesn't discriminate: some become seriously ill while others escape with relatively little impact. The potential side effects apply to all ages and sexes. Currently, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Smoking can lead to respiratory failure, asthma, cancer, skin infection, rotting teeth and heart disease — enough physical problems to keep the medical profession in business for decades.

The student smoking problem has spurred some states — so far, Wisconsin, New Jersey and Illinois — to implement 100-percent smoke-free laws in order to protect students and faculty from secondhand smoke, according to Americans for Non-Smokers' Rights — a national lobbying group working to influence the policy makers and take on the influential tobacco industry.

Some students are even taking a direct stand against the tobacco industry's heavy-handed influence by refusing tobacco sponsorships, grants and donations.

Not only is the physical impact of smoking a concern, but so are the cigarette butts being inappropriately disposed of. Despite 11 designated smoking areas on Valley's campus, cigarette butts are discarded everywhere but in the provided trashcans. This is not only a visual blight, but more

coastal water pollution," according to Clean Ocean Action — a coalition of 125 groups working to investigate sources, effects and solutions of ocean pollution. "Each year, cigarette filters are the most abundant item collected during Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps." This "pointless" pollution affects local swimmers, surfers and aquatic life by either being ingested by accident or mistaken for food.

Valley, as an institution of personal and social education and

Smokers on campus must rally to prevent the potential smoking ban.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Walking passed someone blowing smoke in your face is unpleasant regardless of whether the recipient smokes. It's rude and is a potential health hazard to others, which is why there are designated smoking areas situated around campus.

on campus, rather than an actual rule." According to Meredith Leonard, a Valley College earth sciences instructor on the Work Environment Committee (WEC), several factors are being considered for the proposed ban.

"I wouldn't describe the committee as 'trying to move towards a smoke-free campus,'" she said. "There are some on the committee in favor and some opposed. The shared governance process is meant to ensure that everyone is heard and

smoker knows that. Yet smoking persists, even at Valley, and it should be allowed to stay that way — albeit with consideration for everyone else.

Other health risks on campuses have become a concern for both administrators and the government, such as the quality of school food. Many high schools have banned sugary drinks and provided healthier options, but the motions have yet to reach colleges. While eating these types of foods increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and according to researchers, cancer, it doesn't stop students and society from doing so. Also, governments don't issue labels with diseased organs on the package or berate consumers with the risks.

Individuals will exercise their right to have vices and partake in unhealthy habits. Regardless of the vice, it should be allowed, so long as there is consideration for others. Smoking in the parking lots and designated areas could resolve this issue without having to resort to a ban, but everyone needs to do their part. The designated smoking areas should be noted and used; non-smokers should avoid these areas, and smokers should stay there; and fines should be issued for those who break the rules.

Health risks are everywhere, and individuals take those risks. Driving a car increases the risk of collision and emits toxins in the air. A report from the National Library of Medicine highlighted the risks of benzene, a cancer-causing toxin, in cars. It's up to drivers to be considerate of one another and make certain choices. The same goes for smokers. Students, staff and faculty should work to ensure that everyone is considered. Even if the ban isn't passed, students need to be aware of their behavior. Litter from cigarettes, paper and food packages should be disposed of properly. Students should take pride in the campus, help keep it clean and be aware of their peers' concerns.



MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTTS - Valley College is considering a campus-wide ban on smoking that would eliminate the 11 designated smoking areas the college currently provides.

importantly, the cigarette butts pose a danger to campus wild life.

However, there is a bigger pollution problem that reaches much farther than our local grounds at Valley: the pollution of our oceans. When cigarette butts are swept out to sea, they pose a risk to all living beings in the oceans. "Non-point source or 'pointless' pollution is the number one cause of

improvement, should not allow behaviors that are so detrimental to the welfare of its students, faculty and the environment. Valley should instead follow through on its commitment to students and "... serve the community ... and for advancing one's education, personal development and quality of life," according to Valley's mission statement.

Unfortunately, that might be changing very soon.

Several college campuses are becoming smoke-free. Pierce College has recently issued a smoking ban, though an opinion article by Antonio Hernandez, a contributor on The Roundup student newspaper, states, "It's more like a collective 'please don't smoke

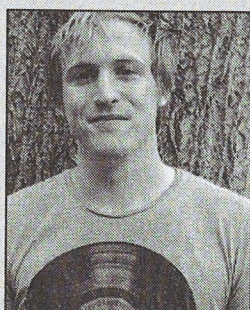
represented."

Off campus, advertisements from organizations like TobaccoFreeCA can be seen on the subway, cigarette packages and electronic billboards that count the number of deaths from smoking cigarettes this year like a grim lottery. Smoking is bad for your health. Every smoker and non-

VALLEY VIEW | SHOULD VALLEY COLLEGE BAN SMOKING CAMPUS WIDE?



"Smoking calms me and helps me study. They should allow smoking ... as long as we stay in our designated areas."
-RAVYN SMITH, COMMERCIAL MUSIC



"I think smoking should not be banned, as long as we are in our smoking areas outside, we are not polluting the inside areas."
-ELIJAH KUNKLE, GERMAN



"Smoking is not cool, [it's] hazardous, and I can't stand the smell of smoke. I think it should be banned on campus."
-JASLINE DESIR, UNDECIDED



"I think smoking should be banned because not everyone smokes and they can still be affected by [second-hand smoke]."
-DENISE TEJADA, UNDECIDED



"We spend a lot of time at school, and if smoking makes people relax, then they should be able to do what makes them comfortable."
-EILEEN ANGUIANO, NURSING

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 29

Club Day
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
Monarch Square
Contact: (818) 778-5516

Financial Aid Workshop
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC
Financial Aid Office
Monarch Hall
Contact: (818) 947-2412

Financial Aid & Scholarship Awareness Event
Noon - 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC
Financial Aid Office
Monarch Hall
Contact: (818) 947-2412

Free Concert Wednesdays
1 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Performance by the Juan Ignacio Band
Music 106
Concert Hotline: (818) 778-5633

MARCH

Thursday, 1

LAVC Program Effectiveness & Planning Committee Meeting
1:15 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Effectiveness & Planning Committee
Faculty Lounge
Contact: (818) 947-2538

Opening Reception for Obscured Lines: Contemporary Drawing in Los Angeles
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sponsored by LAVC Art Gallery
LAVC Art Gallery
Sponsored by LAVC Program
Contact: (818) 778-5536

! THINK TRANSFER

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 29

CSUN Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

MARCH

Monday, 5

Mt. Saint Mary's Representative
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UCLA Peer Mentor
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, 6

CSUN Peer Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Antioch University
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square

The Arts Institute
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square

All activities held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

Hours for the Career/Transfer Center are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For appointments and further information call (818) 947-2646.

FAFSA filing period
January 1 to March 2.
Apply for financial aid
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LAEMMLE LEAVES THE SUNSET STRIP FOR NEW BEGINNINGS IN NOHO ARTS DISTRICT

The independent theater chain is off to a great start in North Hollywood's burgeoning art community after losing the Sunset-5.

EDYTHER SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The NoHo Arts District gives several communities a one-stop destination for performing and visual arts. The only missing element in the past was cinema, but the district is now complete with the addition of the Laemmle Theaters.

The new seven-screen multiplex opened last December following the close of the Sunset location. It's a perfect spot for dinner and a show, with neighboring dining options such as Vicious Dogs, Pitfire Pizza and Phil's Diner. The North Hollywood Metro Station is within walking distance, and drivers can find ample parking in a shared lot.

Inside the lobby are signature features of the chain: posters for avant-garde, foreign and independent films of late and present; a selection of foods that are health conscious, such as fruit juices and vegan cookies, alongside favorites like butter popcorn; and fliers for upcoming shows at theaters with

a similar mission, such as The Egyptian in Hollywood.

Some moviegoers would rather not experience and support big-budget films or the chains that cater to them. That's where the Laemmle comes in: it's entertainment with a conscience.

Tickets are \$8 for matinees and \$11 for general admission. The seating inside is gracious and comfortable. There are leather stadium seat recliners with cup holders and handicapped seating on the platform. Art Deco sconces fill the house with soft light, and the well-maintained carpet relieves patrons of sticky floors and spills.

Laemmle's catchphrase, "not afraid of subtitles," paints the perfect picture of the company. Last Sunday, the theater played the somewhat elusive feature "Pina," directed by Wim Wenders. The film recounts the influence and work of world-renown choreographer Pina Bausch. It also showed Oscar best picture winner, "The Artist" and a collection of the nominated short films.

Although the charm of the theater is largely due to its eclectic selection, there is a humble back-story to it, which gives communities a reason to offer patronage. The Laemmle is family-run: Robert Laemmle is the majority owner, and his father and uncle started the business in the mid

'30s. His son, Greg Laemmle, has been the company president for the last eight years and has great expectations for the new location.

"Being able to close down Sunset and open up in NoHo in a matter of weeks was just perfect," he said. "Very few people lost work. We've done well there, and I think we're going to do better."

When the Sunset-5 location closed, many employees were made managers and transferred to the new location, including Caitlin Kleppinger. While transitioning from the Strip is certainly a change, Kleppinger believes the community will make it a positive one.

"I feel like the overall community has responded well to the new location," she said. "The arts district is a community unlike any other in L.A. — it will really define this theater."

The Laemmle NoHo 7 is located at 5240 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood, with Magnolia Boulevard as its cross street. Hours of operation vary according to show times, which can be found at www.laemmle.com.



ANOTHER OPENING, ANOTHER SHOW - The new Laemmle 7 is now calling the NoHo Arts District its home.

NOW PLAYING AT THE NOHO LAEMMLE 7

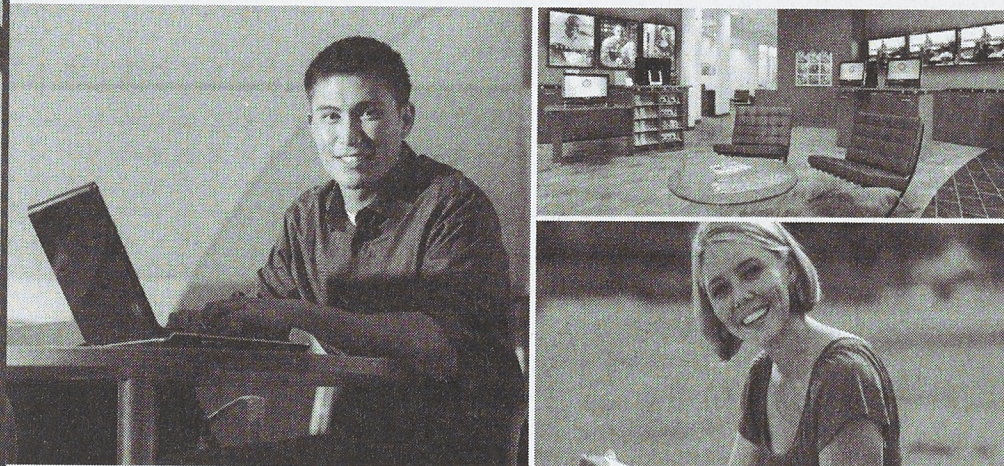
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COOP ED, SERVICE LEARNING CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INTERNS

The Cooperative Education program allows students to earn transferable credits for jobs and internships.

RACHEL PARSONS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Students with jobs, internships and even those in some volunteer positions can earn CSU-transferable credit through Valley College's Cooperative Education program.

Dating back to 1906, the concept of college credit for hands-on learning in a work environment began with engineering students who needed more than classroom theory, according to the program's director, Douglas Marriott.

Today at Valley, Cooperative Education, also known as Coop Ed, takes the form of a three-unit course administered each full semester and summer session geared toward nearly any profession.

"In general, a student will come when they already have a job or internship, but increasingly, we are getting word of internships that employers are looking to be filled. We post those online and on the board outside [the office]," said Marriott. "My goal for the program is to help students change the way they look at work."

Marriott's focus is for workers in the program to learn transferable skills that help them advance in their field.

He works with each student and his or her employer to identify three clear learning objectives for each semester that the student is enrolled in the course. The class may be taken up to four times.

Admission is granted by add slip only, and students must fill out an application and meet

with Marriott before the semester begins. To ensure the job is a legitimate opportunity and the employer understands what his or her role is within the program, he personally visits each company or organization.

Volunteer workers may be accepted through Cooperative Education's partnership with another Valley program, Service Learning.

The student's supervisor is required to give an assessment of the worker or intern, and this combined with two mandatory three-hour seminars in the first semester make up the grade for the course.

"My supervisor was eager to give me three objectives to broaden my knowledge," said business major Javier Garcia, who has taken part in Cooperative Education. "The information I learned at the Coop Ed seminars helped me get a promotion."

Applications for the summer session will be available May 11. Students have one month to prepare the form and meet with Marriott. The summer course has been extended to eight weeks, allowing for more time on the job. The course begins June 11 and runs through Aug. 3.

Marriott stressed the aim of the program is not to have students in an office only learning to get their boss coffee.

"Each student needs to be able to articulate new skills they're going to learn [each semester]," he said. "The goal is to learn new skills and advance. I want you to get units because you're thinking about growing, not just get credit for what you're already doing."

The Cooperative Education office is located in Bungalow 49. Applications are available at www.lavc.edu/cooped, or call (818) 947-2334 for more information.

PLANETARIUM GIVES THE STARS AN AUDIENCE

The Valley College Astronomy Group holds its first planetarium show of 2012.

ROBERT DECKER
STAFF WRITER

Most Valley College students are aware that there is a planetarium on campus. The odd little building in the corner is an ode to retro design and a funny reminder of how people in the '50s and '60s thought the future should look.

However, many don't know the Planetarium is modern, functional and quite comfortable for hosting events the community can take part in.

"We hold one planetarium show, one star party where telescopes are taken into the field to observe the stars and one lecture a month," said David Falk, astronomy instructor and Planetarium director.

The astronomy department hosts three events a month, which can be found on its website, lavcastrogroup.org, according to Falk. The gatherings are public and open to the community. For further program information, one can contact the hotline, website or schedules posted outside on the Planetarium wall.

The Astronomy Group, comprised of students and members of the public, presented the first show of the season, "ET - The Real Search," this past Friday evening. The show was written and presented by Jed Laderman of the Santa Monica Astronomical Society.

The show was an informative and delightfully hokey romp through the solar system looking

for the real digs aliens might be capable of inhabiting.

Those who have never been to a planetarium show should check out one. Just make sure to arrive half an hour early to be guaranteed a ticket, as events tend to sell out at the door.

The Planetarium is located between the Math Science and Engineering buildings on the southwest corner of campus. Most Sundays, the Astronomy Group meets here. They help plan and run the monthly events.

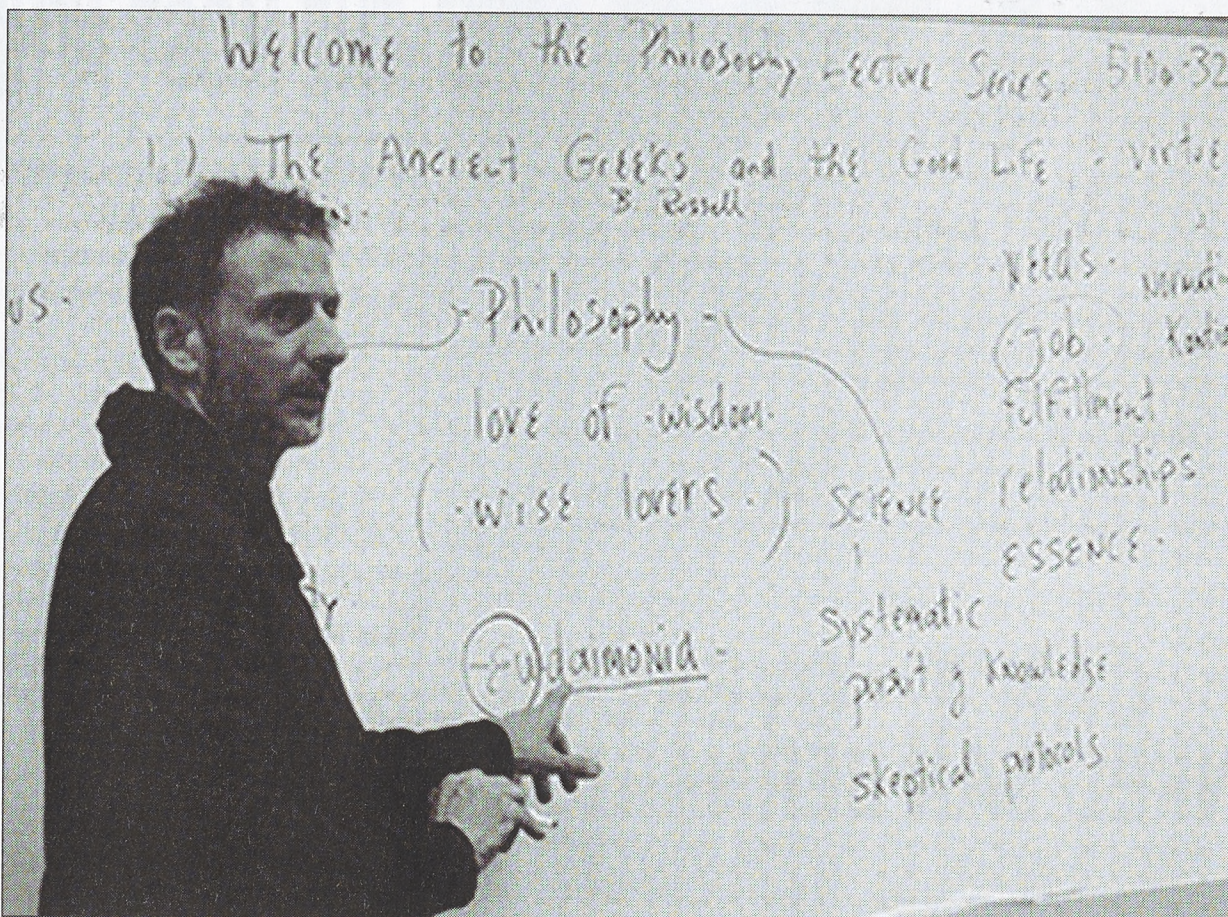
"I really have to give a lot of credit to the Valley College Astronomy Group for all [its] hard work putting on these events," said Falk. "All of the events are sponsored by the Astronomy Group, and membership is open to students and community members alike. Just stop into one of our Sunday business meetings if you're interested; we take anyone, from beginner to expert."

There is a small fee for attending planetarium shows; star parties and lectures are generally free, barring the parking fees at the park where the star parties are located.

"I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was actually a lot of fun," said biology major Brittany Bagwell. "I would come again. The star parties sound like a lot of fun, so I will probably go to one of those ... once the weather gets warmer."

Star parties involve students bringing telescopes to local parks for a closer view of the stars.

When asked if she owns a telescope, Bagwell replied, "My dad bought me a really nice one a few years back, but I never really got a chance to use it. I guess I'll have to dust that puppy off and try it out."



EYE OF THE BEHOLDER - Philosophy instructor Christopher Pallotti speaks Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the weekly philosophy lecture series, making a statement that wise lovers are different than lovers of wisdom.

PHILOSOPHY LECTURES SERIES STARTS WITH A LOOK ON LIFE

Instructor Christopher Pallotti lectures about philosopher Aristotle's ideas on "The Good Life."

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

This semester's philosophy lecture series kicked off with more than 15 people Tuesday, Feb. 20 for "Ancient Greeks and The Good Life," hosted by instructor Christopher Pallotti.

"We are engaging tonight in the activity of philosophy," said Pallotti. "The idea is to bring together a community of learners and people who are interested in learning."

The concept of philosophy can be unappealing to some. However, Pallotti described philosophy as a general study and love of wisdom. He welcomed those new and old to the series. The focus for the night was "thinking about life."

"I loved it. I came the previous semesters, and I enjoyed being here this semester," said Philosophy Club President Michael Lalaian. "It's always fascinating and inspiring. You always learn something."

The topic of the night was "The Good Life" and what it means to have one according to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Pallotti attributes Aristotle as one of the prominent contributors of a good life.

Pallotti breaks everything down and makes sure everyone,

even those who know nothing about philosophy, understand the idea behind the lecture. His interactions with the audience included asking questions, making sure everything was clear and creating a friendly environment in which everyone was comfortable.

"I will definitely be coming back every week," said Michael Lalaian. "It was exactly what I expected and more; [Pallotti] always delivers 110 percent. He makes you see things you already knew in a new way."

The next lecture, titled "Do Some Non-Human Animals Have the Right to Life?" will be held Tuesday, March 6 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Campus Center 104.

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SUNCAFE ILLUMINATES RAW-VEGAN CUISINE IN L.A.

Studio City vegan eatery appeals to all forms of foodies.

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

When one ponders what to have for a meal, rarely is vegan food at the top of the list. But SunCafe, hidden in Studio City off the 101 freeway, has carnivores pondering if they should become herbivores.

SunCafe, a raw, organic and vegan restaurant, brings customers to their zen the moment they walk in the door. Filled with calming colors and ample space to eat, customers are treated as if they are at home with friendly service, a view and sunlight coming in from the busy Cahuenga Pass.

Located in between the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood, prepare to hunt for parking and beware of parking signs for ticketing. This doesn't make for such a delightful experience. Also, run to the bank beforehand because when the words raw, organic and vegan are together, that makes items go up in price.

However, the price of the food is worth it.

The Sun Nachos are different from a typical movie snack. A starter on the menu priced at \$12 is an item that four can share comfortably. Layered with its version of dairy-free chorizo, nacho cheese, and cashew cheese, cus-

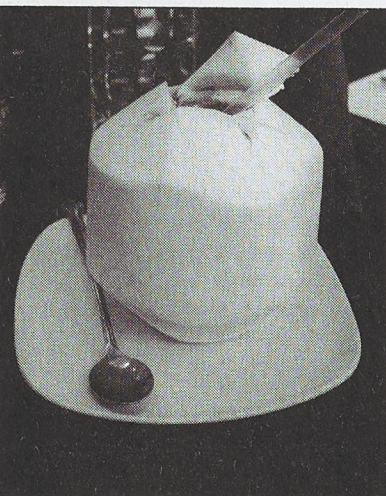
tomers would think they are eating from a go-to Mexican restaurant. The normal fixings, like guacamole, pico de gallo, olives, jalapeño and green onions, can be found with the Sun Nachos as well. The most interesting component of this appetizer spin is the chips. There are two options: plant-based and dairy-free blue corn chips or slices of uncooked jicama chips. There is an option to have half and half of the chips for a dollar more, but save the money and go for the full vegan experience and order the jicama. These chips provide a refreshing option and give it that crunch that every plate of nachos needs.

The Pesto Pizza, on the specialties section of the menu, is special in itself at \$13. SunCafe likes to have options for ordering. Pizza options include a "SunCrust" or whole-wheat flat bread. The SunCrust is a combination of Brazilian nuts, cashews, pumpkin and sunflower seeds. This is the option to go for. Creamy pesto serves as the traditional tomato sauce for the pizza, and mozzarella is replaced with cashew cheese topped with mushrooms, tomatoes, green onions and olives. Even though one may think of a pizza taking up the majority of the plate, this one does not. Paired with the nuts as the crust and the toppings, this personal sized pizza will have one saying, "I'm full." Keeping up with different options, a side comes with the pizza as well such as a kale salad, mixed green salad, hummus and pita bread or veggies and a dip. Any of these

choices are appetizing and filling.

The Sweet Kale Shake for \$7 or the Fresh Young Coconut for \$4, found on the beverages side of the menu, are the best options for a student budget. The leafy-lettuce shake with banana, cashews and agave tastes like a shake found at any diner. This shake will have one pondering the trend of kale eaters everywhere. It's sweet and doesn't taste like a salad that happens to be a shake. The Fresh Young Coconut is worth every penny. Cracked to order, there is plenty of coconut water for the whole meal, and because it comes cracked, one can eat the sweet flesh inside the island nut as well.

SunCafe is located at 3711 West Cahuenga Blvd. in Studio City, and is open everyday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
BANG FOR YOUR BUCK - One of the drink options is Fresh Young Coconut. It's cracked to order; don't forget to eat the coconut's meat.

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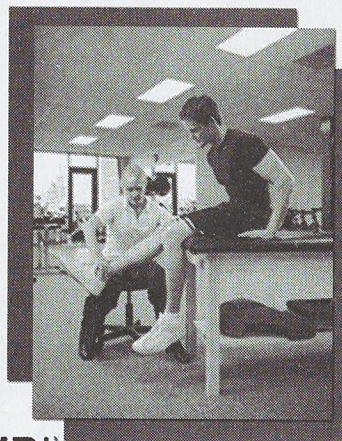
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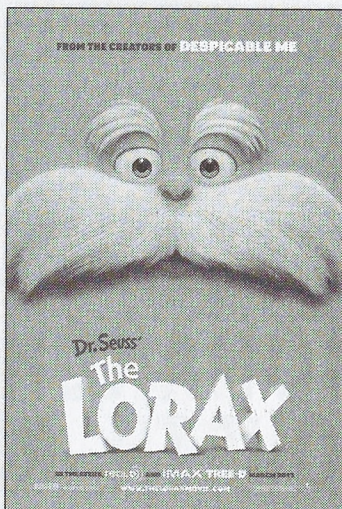
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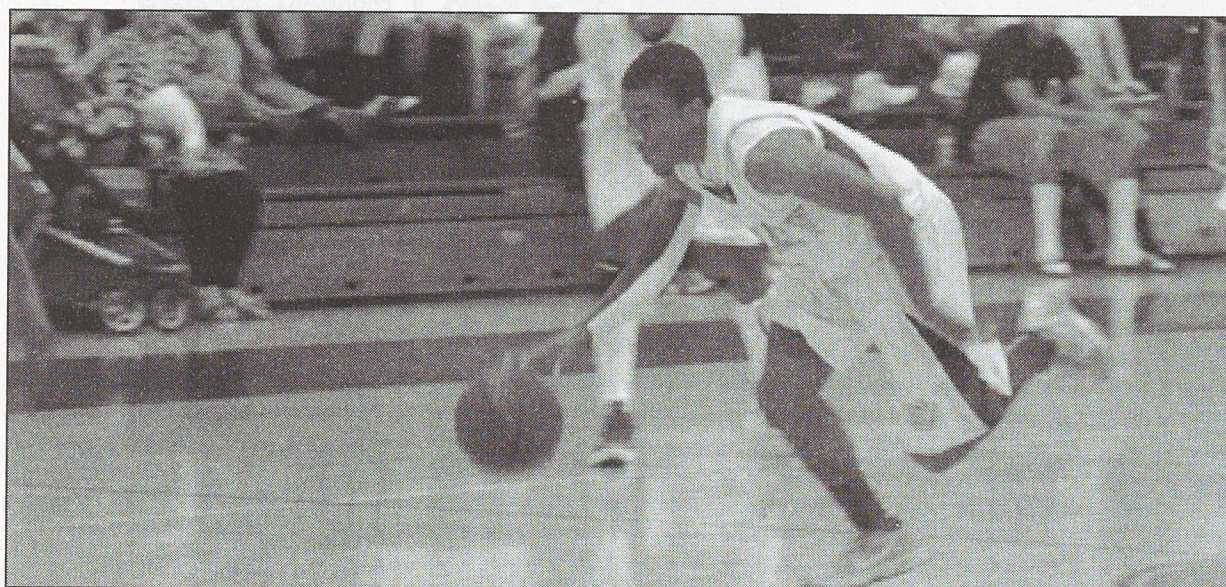
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•ANDY GRAMMER WITH THE RESCUES: MARCH 2, HOUSE OF BLUES



SAFE RECOVERY - Guard Alex Stauffer recovered from stumbling as he gained possession after teammate Domanique Cotton lost the ball. RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

MONARCHS CAN'T OVERCOME FOURTH-RANKED SAN BERNARDINO

Valley College defeats College of the Canyons but can't get past San Bernardino in the second round.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College men's basketball team (16-12) ended its season Saturday after losing to San Bernardino Valley in the quarterfinals of the Southern California Regional Playoffs.

"These guys play with passion and heart," said Monarch coach Virgil Watson. "They have unbelievable character."

In the first round of the playoffs, the Monarchs played College of the Canyons. The first half of the game was close, with Valley unable to find rhythm. Every time it seemed the Monarchs could take a significant lead, the Cougars answered back with a fluid offensive attack of its own. Trading baskets with the Cougars for much of the half, the Monarchs held a slight 30-28 lead going into halftime.

"This is the third time we've played them, so they are familiar with us," said Marcus Johnson, second year shooting guard for the Monarchs. "They know a lot of our plays and we know a lot of theirs ... so it was real even to start it off."

Johnson hit two back-to-back threes in the beginning of the second half, followed by a long jumper from Stauffer to start what became an 11-0 run. This gave the rest of the team confidence, which shifted into a shooting clinic put on by the Monarch offense, which had a 54-percent field goal in the second half.

"You have to remind the guys what we are playing for," said second year Valley point guard Alex Stauffer. "Just get everybody on the same page, and we know how to go from there."

Valley led by as many as 17 points in the second half. The Cougars couldn't find answers to stop Stauffer and Johnson, who went seven for eight from the 3-point range with 27 points.

Stauffer, Johnson and Domanique Cotton, who had 12 points, combined for 62 of the Monarchs' 75 total points.

"We have to lock down on defense and then the offense comes to us," said second year Monarch forward Javion Garner.

In the second round, it was the battle of the Valleys where the Monarchs faced off against fourth-ranked San Bernardino Valley for a spot in the semi finals.

The Wolverines' defense was a huge factor in this game. The Monarchs gave up 13 turnovers, eight of which were steals by the Wolverines. In addition, Valley was out-rebounded, and held to a 43-percent field goal. The Monarchs, mostly down by double digits, trailed San Bernardino for most of the game.

With 11 minutes left in the second half, Valley tied the game but could not capitalize on its comeback. The Wolverines took advantage of an injury to Monarch forward Robert Looper and Javion Garner's foul trouble to add 11 points in the last minutes of the game, securing an 87-76 win.

"What I really appreciate about these guys is they tried to make plays even when the odds were not in our favor," said coach Watson. "I never had a team that played the way we asked them to play."

THE MOST ATHLETIC CHOKE ON THE PLANET

The "King" LeBron James' performance in the 2012 All-Star games shows, once again, why he can't perform under pressure.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Larry Bird would play with Kobe Bryant over LeBron James ... and for a good reason.

"Well, probably Kobe," Bird said in an interview with ESPN. "But, if you want to have fun, like I did with Bill Walton, play with LeBron. It would have probably been more fun to play with LeBron, but if you want to win and win and win, it's Kobe."

James is the most athletic player in the NBA, without question. He is a 6'8, 250 pound beast who makes even the most elite defenders in the league quiver at the mere thought of defending him. Unfortunately for James, athleticism will never outweigh intelligence or the ability to perform under pressure.

In the final six seconds of the 2012 NBA All-Star game, James had the ball in his hands after a

missed 3-pointer by teammate Deron Williams, which would have given the East the lead. Moments later, James - who had gone six for eight from behind the arc - hurled a one-handed pass from behind the 3-point line that was intercepted by Blake Griffin, securing a second straight victory for the West.

"When I tried to throw it late, that's what happens, and it resulted in a turnover," James said. "Definitely wish I could have that one back."

This isn't the first time James has used this phrase in his career, and it won't be the last. Though James decided to throw a pick rather than put up a potential game-winning shot in the All-Star game and not a regular season game of importance, it still counts. It counts because it is a paradigm of what James' career has been and what it always will be unless he can change.

"There's going to always be great players in basketball. There's going to always be guys who win championships in the NBA, except LeBron ...," Magic Johnson said.

The same reason James declined to take the game winner in the All-Star game is the same

reason he only scored 9 points in the first three-fourth quarters of last year's NBA finals against the Dallas Mavericks. It's why he went three of 11 with only 8 points in game four.

James hasn't scored fewer than 10 points since kindergarten, and the matchups he faced were heavily weighted in the Heat's favor. He faced Jason Kidd, Jason Terry and Dshawn Stevenson down the stretch and still managed to produce barely more than the water boy in the fourth quarter.

When asked who was the better basketball player, Michael Jordan simply said, "Kobe."

Jordan is superior, and so are Bird, Johnson, and Bryant. Championships brand legends, not Gatorade commercials. Consistency earns rings, not ego.

This season's playoffs will heavily favor James and "The Big Three" once again, but heavily favored also means pressure, pressure that James has shown throughout his career he is incapable of overcoming. To quote Alec Baldwin in Glenn Gary Glenn Ross, "Coffee is for closers," and right now, Mr. James, you appear to be sitting in Florida sipping iced tea.



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THE MONARCHS COLLECT WIN OVER PALOMAR COLLEGE

The Valley College baseball team defeated Palomar Community College 2-1 Saturday.

CRISTINA SERRATO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"This was a great game, but I give all the credit to Travis," said outfielder Casey Ryan. "He pitched a hell of a game ... it was very impressive."

The Monarchs capitalized in the bottom of the first inning after Ryan stole both second and third base off of an error. At the top of the second, Palomar refused to let Valley run away with the game as Danny Hawksley hit a pop fly

into centerfield, which drove in the Comets first and only run of the game.

"This was a great game. Going in, we were 4 out of 5," said head coach Dave Mallas. "But the last two games were not the best, so we just focused on playing a good fundamental game."

Palomar fought unsuccessfully to score during the top of the third inning. Valley successfully moved base runners from first and second base, and despite Comet pitcher Clayton Voechting's best defensive efforts, Ryan stole third. Due to a strike out error on Valley's first baseman Trevor McMaster, Ryan was once again able to score.

"I gotta worry about me, about what I do," said Monarch

pitcher Travis Cassidy.

"I don't let [the opposing pitcher] affect me. I just think of the next batter, just focus on what's next," Cassidy grinned.

With superb pitching on both sides, the following several innings became a perfect example of defensive strategy.

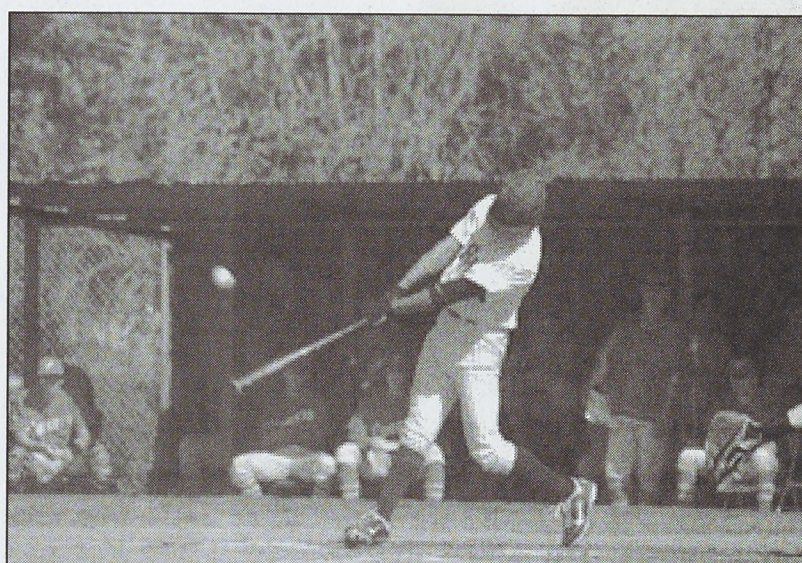
Focused and fast Palomar pitcher Voechting continued to strike out Valley batters; meanwhile, the Monarchs completely shut out the Comets. Ryan continued stealing bases and defense remained strong on both sides.

"This game was played really good. The defense really had my back. I had confidence in them," said Cassidy.

These were two teams pitted against each other, both having amazing pitchers and strong defenses; however, Valley had the upper edge with Ryan, who stole five bases. Both sides were scoreless for the final six innings and Saturday's game ended at the bottom of the ninth with a 2-1 win in favor of Valley.

"This season will be great. This is a good team with good chemistry, and we gel well together," said Ryan.

The Monarchs look forward to competing in the Western State Conference, which will begin March 4.



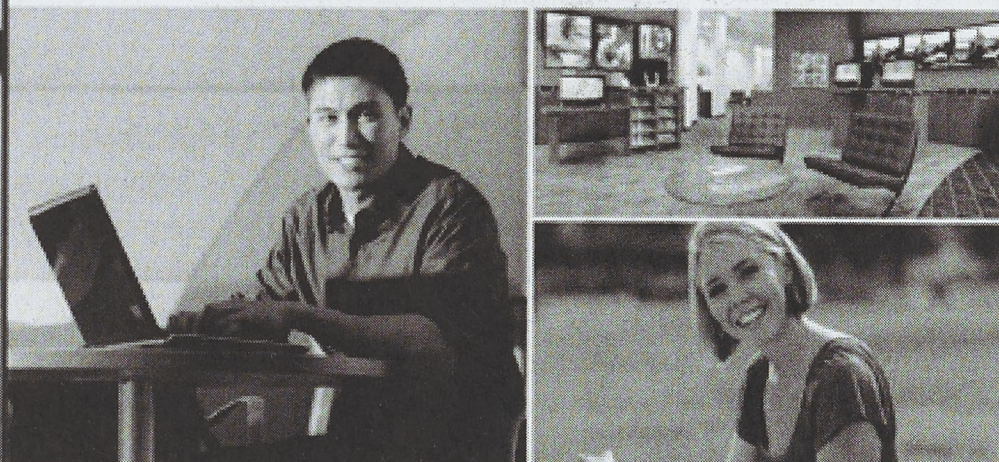
POP FLY - Infielder Marcel Chavez grabs a piece of the ball, but pops out to the outfield. RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR



STEALING BASES - Second baseman Casey Ryan slides to steal third base as the Palomar Comets' third baseman couldn't reach far enough to grab the ball. RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

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VALLEY FALLS IN CONFERENCE FINALS AFTER VICTORY AGAINST COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS



PHOTOS BY: RICHARD RAZAVI
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

TEXT BY: ROMEO GONZALEZ
AND RICHARD RAZAVI
STAFF WRITER AND CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite playing with passion and heart, the Valley College men's basketball team ended its season Saturday, losing to San Bernardino Valley College in the quarter finals.

Things seemed brighter in the first round of the playoffs when the Monarchs defeated College of the Canyons 75-61.

"This is the third time we've played them, so they are familiar with us," said Marcus Johnson, second year shooting guard for the Monarchs. "They know a lot of our plays and we know a lot of theirs ... so it was real even to start it off."

Valley led by as many as 17 points in the second half. The Cougars couldn't find answers to stop Stautner and Johnson, who went seven for eight from the 3-point range with 27 points.

Overall, the Monarchs finished the season above 500 with a 16-12 mark and 7-5 in conference play. Monarch coach Virgil Watson had nothing but praise for his young team, nine of them freshmen, remarking "they have unbelievable character." The coach went on to say, "I never had a team that played the way we asked them to play."

